

Although overlooked by both administrators and anthropologists and numerically rather marginal, the Bushmen have been always part of the Namibian urban spaces on their erstwhile territories. Based on several field research trips to the area of Grootfontein between 2007 and 2013 and archival research, this dissertation outlines the complex historical processes and factors influencing the mobility of the !Xun Bushmen into and out of the urban space of Grootfontein in the commercial farm area of Namibia. Even though the mobility to its urban space was largely legally controlled during both the German and South African rule, the Bushmen continuously managed to penetrate it. With the development of the Blikkiesdorp settlement in the township of Grootfontein in the early 2000s the number of !Xun in the town considerably increased and they became an integral part of the settlement. This dissertation argues that the reasons for Bushman urbanisation are far more complex than being solely economically motivated. Although, the main focus of this case study is on the urban locality of Grootfontein, its author is convinced many of its data are generalisable on other urban areas within the commercial farm area as well.